

REMARKS:

The present Amendment editorially revises the specification and claims, and adds an Abstract, to conform the present PCT application to the requirements of United States patent practice. No change in the claim language has been made for the purpose of distinguishing any claim over the teachings of the prior art of record. Accordingly, no change in the claim language is considered by the Applicants to be a surrender of any of the subject matter encompassed within the scope of the original claims.

Early consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Description

~~Cross-platform and data-specific visualization of 3D data records~~

SPECIFICATION

TITLE

5 "CROSS-PLATFORM AND DATA-SPECIFIC VISUALIZATION OF 3D DATA
RECORDS"

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

10 The invention relates to a device for cross-platform and data-specific
visualization of 3D data records by means of visualization software for display on
a 2D monitor.

Description of the Prior Art

15 The brochure entitled "SIENET MagicView 300, Image Reporting, Image
Processing and All That Goes With It" describes a viewer for visualizing 2D data
records, as may be gathered from the first column on page 2. It is stated there
that a digital image is defined as a matrix of discrete values that represent the
gray-scale values. However, a matrix is always two-dimensional and does not
represent a data volume such as is supplied, for example, as a 3D data record
from the a CT, MR or C-arm CT.

20 Migration Conversion of 2D recordings acquired datasets to 3D volume
data records leads to up the problem of having to exchange the volume data
among doctors and of having to visualize them on different computers. In order to
ensure uniform image quality, in addition to the medical data record it is necessary
to make available a program that permits the visualization of the 3D data on the
25 2D monitor. The use of different methods for volume visualization together with
the many possibilities for parameterizing the algorithms lead to a different image
quality.

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To date, such volume data generally have ~~mostly~~ been exchanged by transmitting the volume data record via a DICOM interface to a medical workstation at which expensive volume visualization software is installed, although difficulties can occur in turn here as well when this volume visualization software
5 is not the same as that which was used on the original computer of the radiologist.

In addition, individual views of the volume data record have also been generated, stored in a standard image format and passed on. Images can be viewed on any desired PC with the aid of standard programs such as photoshop, for example. Finally, it has also ~~already~~ been proposed to store a number of fixed
10 views in a set sequence as a digital video (avi, for example) and then play them back using standard software tools.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

~~It is therefore the~~ An object of the present invention is to provide a device for cross-platform, data-specific visualization of 3D data records which, in
15 conjunction with a simple design, operates independently of the computers respectively used and of any possible visualization software, and thereby permits 3D volume data records to be ordered and viewed by any desired third parties with the best play back quality.

~~To achieve this~~ This object[[,]] is achieved in accordance with a device for
20 cross-platform and data-specific visualization of 3D data records wherein the invention provides that the 3D volume data are stored together with visualization software on a data carrier, and the latter is transmitted to a user for ~~play-back~~ playback on any desired PC.

Storing the 3D volume data record together with any (desired) visualization
25 software means that 3D volume can be visualized on any PC without software additionally installed on said PC. Moreover, the unit of data record and visualization algorithm ensures that no general visualization tool with the aid of which any desired data records can be displayed is involved.

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~~It can be provided here in a development~~ In an embodiment of the invention ~~that~~ the visualization parameters are also stored on the data carrier in an at least partially unchangeable fashion. This yields the advantageous possibility of, for example, making a 3D volume data record, produced by a radiologist and in
5 which specific structures have been specially emphasized by specific visualization parameters, available to the operator in the operation room, in which case the latter then also sees precisely the structures that the radiologist has emphasized via the visualization parameters on the basis of his specialist knowledge. In many cases, it can be expedient, ~~precisely~~ when transmitting such 3D data to less
10 experienced doctors, ~~not to leave to the latter~~ physician all the possibilities of selecting the various visualization parameters, since in most cases they are overwhelmed ~~thereby completely overtaxed~~ and, in the final analysis, are unable to extract any useful image at all from the data. Storing the 3D volume with visualization software and the visualization parameters found by the radiologist to
15 be the best possible display of a specific structure on a data carrier, preferably a CD, ~~renders~~ makes it possible in a simple way to solve the problem of passing on such 3D volume data records among doctors ~~in such a way that~~ by making passing them on is very simple, so that the receiver requires no special facilities (expensive visualization software on his or her work station), ~~and that~~. Moreover,
20 the data of the 3D volume data record that are of interest to the receiver can be passed on such that even a non-radiologist obtains an optimum display. Of course, even in such a case with fixed visualization parameters the operator still has the options of spatially rotating the 3D volume data record, for example with specially emphasized bone structures or else arborizations, and of regarding them
25 from all possible points of view in order to prepare ~~the~~ for a surgical operation.

~~Further advantages, features and details of the invention emerge from the following description of an exemplary embodiment and with the aid of the drawing, which shows~~

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The single figure schematically illustrates the projection of a 3D volume data record onto a 2D monitor.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

5 When a 3D volume data record is being produced, the volume of interest is transirradiated from an optical center 1, and the points lying on the line of transirradiation are imaged in an image plane. A 3D volume data record can be calculated with the aid of an algorithm from a number of two-dimensional images produced from different optical centers 1. In the reconstruction, shown in the
10 figure, of the 3D data record on a 2D monitor 2, the points lying on a projection ray 3 are added to the 3D volume V in accordance with variable points of view, specifically the so-called visualization parameters, for example with their gray-scale values, and imaged on the 2D monitor 2 as a pixel. The setting of the visualization parameters is a particularly difficult art in this case and is mastered
15 only by experienced radiologists, whereas normal doctors are able only with great difficulty to emphasize the structures they desire from a 3D volume data record. For example, depending on the setting of the visualization parameters, vascular arborizations in the 3D volume V, for example, are specially emphasized, or else specific bone structures or other medical details. If these visualization parameters
20 are recorded in common on a data record together with the visualization software respectively used and the 3D volume data by the recording radiologist, in particular burnt onto a CD, this data record can very easily be sent to a doctor or another department of a hospital where a simple PC requiring no special visualization installations of any sort, that is to say, in particular, on which there is
25 no need to install any expensive visualization software, is sufficient for visualization. The simultaneous co-storage of the visualization parameters as far as possible in a way such that the receiver is no longer capable of changing them has the advantage that even less experienced doctors can view on their simple PC with the best image quality precisely the structures emphasized by the
30 radiologist.

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An exemplary scenario ~~could look~~ is as follows. ~~in this case:~~

5 A neuroradiologist generates a three-dimensional volume data record ~~with~~
~~the aid of~~ using an angiography unit, edits the volume in such a way that an
aneurism is effectively displayed, and burns a CD for the neurosurgeon. The
latter neurosurgeon takes the CD, plays it on a standard PC and can visualize and
analyze the 3D data record directly. ~~He~~ The neurosurgeon is not dependent on a
special work station, can inspect the data record on any desired computer, and
can do so, moreover, with the same quality as ~~his colleague in neuroradiology~~ the
neuroradiologist.

10 Although modifications and changes may be suggested by those skilled in
the art, it is the invention of the inventors to embody within the patent warranted
heron all changes and modifications as reasonably and properly come within the
scope of his contribution to the art.